

# NEWS

How much is a gram?

A shirt button

Two paper clips

Two raisins

Six small rubber bands

# LETTER

Vol. IX No.III

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# EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



## Work Shops and Conferences

**March 8-11, 1999 International Oil Spill Conference, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA.** For additional information call 202/973-8689.

**March 15-19, 1999, Air Monitoring for Hazardous Materials (165.4), TBA, Seattle, WA.** This course instructs participants in the practices and procedures for monitoring and sampling airborne hazardous materials. For additional information contact Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

**April 12-16, 1999, 23<sup>rd</sup> National Indian Timber Symposium, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs, OR.** For more information call the Intertribal Timber Council at 503/282-4296

**April 27-28, 1999, Introductory Preliminary Assessment Training, TBA Region 10.** This course provides participants with an introduction to the Superfund site assessment process and the fundamentals of the preliminary assessment phase of this process. For information call Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

**May 3-14, 1999, 80 Hour Chemistry of Hazardous Materials, EPA Regional Office, Seattle, WA.** This course is composed of two instruction sequences on inorganic and organic chemicals. For information call Diane Ruthruff 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

**May 18-20, The National Tribal Environmental Council's Sixth National Conference, Eureka, CA.** For additional information please call NTEC at 505/242-2175.

### Sampling Course

The British Columbia Waste and Wastewater Association (BCWWA) in cooperation with the BC Laboratory Quality Assurance Advisory Committee, is planning to develop a course on environmental sampling. Currently the two organizations are seeking input to be used for the design of the course.

If you are interested in learning more about this course, or would like to participate in their initial interest survey contact: BCWWA, 604/540-0111, or [cgibson@bcwwa.orgwww.bewwa.org](mailto:cgibson@bcwwa.orgwww.bewwa.org)

**EPA Region 10 Tribal  
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monthly at no charge.**

To receive a copy call:

AK...Jean.....907/271-6558  
ID....Arlene.....208/378-5749  
OR...Don.....503/326-5015  
WA...Evelyn.....206/553-4011  
Tribal Office..... 800/424-4372  
ext. 4011

### *Tribute to Henry SiJohn:*

Upon hearing of the passing of Henry SiJohn a touching letter was written to the Chairman from Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator. Some of those thoughts:

"Our partnership with the Coeur d'Alene tribe in protecting the CDA basin goes back many years. Since the beginning of this partnership Henry was always there. He has been at times our harshest critic, pushing us to tackle problems that we were reluctant to tackle, holding our work to a higher standard. When we were ready to compromise, Henry was there to tell us that we were falling short--falling short of our mission to protect the environment, and falling short of our trust responsibilities to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. For these efforts the Agency will forever be indebted.

Henry taught us fundamental truth about the federal government's trust responsibilities, as well as the importance of the entire CDA Basin to the CDA people. He taught us a sense of history, a sense of connection to the problems of the past and our responsibility to restore the environment for our children's children. He taught us

perseverance.

Above all Henry was our friend. His kindness and good humor enhanced our personal ability to tackle the critical issues that face all of us. It is hard to imagine working on the CDA Basin without Henry SiJohn there to be our critic, our teacher, and our friend. Yet as we speak about the loss we feel, we know that his loss to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is far beyond that we ourselves experience.

Our sympathies are with all of you."

### "April 22 is Earth Day"

#### Grants

Grants: First Nations Development Institute Sustainable Forestry Fund is offering small grants up to \$5,000 in 3 categories: Training, Scoping Assessment, and Chain of Custody Assessment.

To get the application and description to find further information of these 3 grants, call 800/682-5384.

### **Tribal Drinking Water**

EPA has made a commitment to protect public health on tribal lands while supporting tribal self-government, upholding our Federal Trust Responsibilities, and strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the Tribes and EPA. One goal towards comprehensive public health protection identified by EPA is that "by 2005, 40% of the population served by tribal community water systems will receive their water from systems with source water assessment and, where needed, source water protection programs (this includes wellhead protection programs)." Although Tribes are not required by law to develop drinking water source assessment or protection programs, EPA is firmly committed to protecting drinking water sources on Tribal lands and will support interested Tribes in developing a drinking water source protection program.

To meet Tribal needs in developing drinking water source protection programs, Region 10 has shifted these program responsibilities to a new team in the Groundwater Protection Unit. This shift in program responsibilities is a timely and substantive increase in EPA Region 10's ability to help develop drinking water source protection programs on Indian Lands. The Groundwater Protection Unit has devoted approximately 0.5 FTE to Tribal drinking water protection program development efforts. Tribes with questions about the program or in need of technical assistance should contact Jeff Kenknight in the Groundwater Protection Unit at: 206/553-0226 or E-mail:

**kenknight.jeff@epamail.epa.gov.**

Jeff will be the primary contact in the Groundwater Protection Unit with hydro geologic support by Martha Lentz, Jill Nogi, and others in the group as needed.

Tribes are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the resources that are now available to protect a precious resource: drinking water.

### **Wetlands Symposium**

May 18-20 - Boulder, CO: National EPA, State, Tribal, Local Wetlands

Program symposium. National forum for wetlands professionals to discuss the effectiveness of current wetland protection strategies and mechanisms for improvement at EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. For more information: Conservation Technology Information Center at 765/494-5969.

May 16-19 - Austin, TX: 6th National Watershed Conference. Info: National Watershed Coalition 703/455-6886 ext. 4387 or email: **jwpeterson@erols.com**

May 24-27 - Mashantucket, CT: 17th Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference. Info: 303/466-1725

### **USDA Funding**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREPs) totaling \$500 million were established in Oregon and Washington to protect streams in those states that are home to endangered species of salmon and trout. CREPs involve planting trees along streams and rivers to serve as buffers that can filter as much as 90% of sediment, nutrients, and other contaminants from surface runoff before it reaches sensitive rivers and streams, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture landowners and producers will be eligible to enter into 10 to 15 year contracts to plant and maintain long-term vegetative covers on land adjacent to targeted streams and rivers. In return, they will receive cost-share and technical assistance.

Interested parties can obtain more information from their local USDA Service Center or on the Web at:

**<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dap/cepd/crpinfo.htm>**.

### **Operator Website**

Tom Brown has been working on a special project. The project was to develop a website specifically for water/wastewater operators. The site is now up and running; if you have any comments please feel free to send him e-mail messages or give him a call. The site is still under development and you can expect more to be added to it each month. One of the features coming soon will be a classified section where treatment plants can post job openings, used

equipment, etc. (at no cost for now). Please let people know it exists. Tom will be making additions to this site on regular intervals.

The website address is **<http://www.dep/deputate/waterops/index.htm>**. Tom said he would appreciate any feed back.

### **Education**

NIGA '99 Annual Meeting and Trade Show April 26-28, 1999 Tucson Convention Center. Call 202-546-7711 for more information, or check their website at: **[www.indiangaming.org](http://www.indiangaming.org)**.

### **SACNAS**

The Society for Advancement of Chicano & Native American Students is planning the 1999 National Conference to take place at the Portland Convention Center, October 7-10, 1999. For additional information 831/459-0170. Website: **<http://www.sacnas.org>**.

### **Fish Consumption Advisories**

EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are sponsoring a nationwide effort to inform health professionals and their patients about the dangers of eating fish harvested from contaminated waters. Through a letter to 100,000 Pediatricians, OB-GYNs, and Family Physicians across the nation, doctors are asked to advise their patients to pay attention to state or tribal-issued fish consumption advisories. Doctors will also receive brochures, written in English, Spanish, and Hmong, that describe how to safely consume fish and minimize exposure to contaminated fish.

Copies of these brochures are also being sent to state and tribal environmental and public health professionals, along with a paper summarizing the latest research on the dangers of eating fish contaminated with PCBs. These chemicals are responsible for many of the fish consumption advisories in the United States.

Copies of the brochures and information on fish and wildlife advisories are available at EPA's Office of Science and Technology website:

<http://www.epa.gov/OST/fish> .

### **Monitoring Small Water Systems**

EPA has published a direct final rule to suspend the current unregulated contaminant monitoring requirements for water systems serving 10,000 or fewer persons. This rule will save small water systems the cost of monitoring under the existing regulation so that their compliance efforts will not overlap when the new regulations take effect. Under the current Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, systems serving 3,301 -10,000 persons are scheduled to begin the third round of monitoring in January 1999. As well, systems serving less than 3,301 persons are scheduled to begin their third round monitoring in January 2001. To view the Federal Register document, visit EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/smallsys/unregfr.html>.

### **On the Web**

The Washington Department of Health and Ecology has developed and posted online reclamation standards for most water reuse applications: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/wq/reclaim/index.html>. The standards provide design, treatment, and use criteria for general requirements, such as land application, discharge to natural and constructed wetlands, and groundwater recharge.

### **Drinking Water Rule**

EPA published a direct final rule on analytical methods for regulated drinking water contaminants (63FR 47115) in the rule, EPA: ♦approves the use of updated versions of previously approved American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Standard Methods for Examination of Water and Wastewater (SM), and EPA analytical methods for compliance determinations of chemical and microbiological contaminants in drinking water; ♦Withdraws approval of the previous versions of the 14 EPA methods (previous versions of the SM and ASTM methods will continue to be approved); ♦recommends additional methods for monitoring chloride and

sulfate; and ♦corrects methods citations and makes other technical corrections or amendments to regulations, including not requiring performance evaluation (PE) samples to contain all regulated contaminants, requiring laboratories to analyze a PE sample at least once each year to continue certification, and clarifying composite-sample follow-up reporting time.

For additional information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800/426-4791.

### **Water Quality Revised**

Compilation of National Recommended Water Quality Criteria and EPA's Process for Deriving New and Revised Criteria

**Abstract:** The EPA has published a compilation of water quality criteria. The compilation is presented as a summary table containing recommended water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life and human health for approximately 150 pollutants. These criteria are published pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and provide guidance for States and Tribes to use in adopting water quality standards under Section 303(c) of the CWA. EPA has also published changes to its process for deriving new and revised national water quality criteria.

**Background:** Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1314(a)(1), requires the EPA to publish and periodically update ambient water quality criteria. These criteria are to ".... accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge . . . on the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on health and welfare including, but not limited to, plankton, fish, shellfish, wildlife, plant life . . . which may be expected from the presence of pollutants in any body of water . . ." Water quality criteria developed under section 304(a) are based solely on data and scientific judgments on the relationship between pollutant concentrations and environmental and human health effects. These recommended criteria provide guidance for States and Tribes in adopting water quality standards under section 303(c) of the CWA.

The compilation was published in the Federal Register and can be accessed on the Office of Science and Technologies Home-page (<http://www.epa.gov/OST/>).

This Federal Register notice also describes changes in EPA's process for deriving new and revised national water quality criteria as well as the Agency's intentions for periodically updating the compilation in the future.

For additional information concerning the compilation or EPA's process for deriving new and revised criteria, contact Cindy Roberts, Health and Ecological Criteria Division, (4304), 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C., 20460 or phone: 202/260-2787. The [Federal Register](#) notice gives additional information on how to review the complete record for the notice.

### **Tribal Funding Opportunity for Source Water/Wellhead Protection**

EPA Region 10 is soliciting project proposals from Tribes to support Drinking Water Protection/Capacity Development activities. A total of \$143,000 is available from EPA Region 10 this fiscal year to fund three Tribal projects. Pre-application proposals must be received by **March 26, 1999**. For more information about this year's source water/wellhead protection grants please contact: Jeff Kenknight, EPA, 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (OW-137)Seattle, WA 98101, 206/553-0226, E-mail: [kenknight.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kenknight.jeff@epamail.epa.gov).

### **ATSDR**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, has announced the establishment of an Office of Tribal Affairs to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The office is located within the ATSDR's Division of Health Assessment & Consultation.

The purpose of this office is to provide a point of contact for Tribal governments and members to have access to ATSDR and it's many environmental public health programs; and, to assure availability of staff sensitive and trained to work with American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, who will assist others within the agency to coordinate effectively with

tribal governments and members.

The Office of Tribal Affairs staff are developing protocols and procedures for this new organization, and would appreciate any comments, ideas, and recommendations from interested parties.

The ATSDR is responsible for preventing or reducing the harmful effects of exposure to hazardous substances on human health and quality of life. The agency is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, and has 10 regional office across the United States, as well as a Washington, D.C., office.

For information: 888/422-8737.

### Underground Storage Tanks

Starting late February 1999 and continuing through spring 1999, EPA will conduct **unannounced** inspections at UST facilities (Tribal and non-Tribal) on Tribal Lands. The targeted inspections will be those facilities that have not upgraded (spill, overfill, and corrosion protection) by the regulated date of December 23, 1998. For additional information contact Robert Cutler at 360/753-9543.

### Alaska

■April 5-9, 1999, **Alaska Forum on the Environment.** Egan convention Center Anchorage, Alaska. The Alaska forum on the Environment focuses on four tracks of information pertaining to rural Alaska, Environmental health, environmental regulations, and natural resources. Within these four tracks, participants can select from more than 50 different topic sessions and special events! These sessions will offer the best environmental expertise from Alaska and Outside helping you in your workplace and community. General sessions for all participants will include keynote speakers on topics including: "Global Climate change, Persistent Pollutants in Alaska, the Bering Sea at Risk, Cross-Cultural Training, Environmental Protection and Economic Development. For event information or to receive a discount of \$50/\$75 for early registration, (or \$75/\$100 after March 31, 1999), phone

907/563-9334, or Email [afe@akero.org](mailto:afe@akero.org).

Check out the website <http://www.wakero.org> for more information.

### Idaho

■**Coeur d'Alene TEA signed:** Thursday, February 4, 1999, was TEA signing day for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator, Scott Sufficool, Tribal Office Director, Lynn McKee, Idaho Office Administrator, Doug Cole, Idaho Tribal Coordinator and Arlene Boss, Tribal Liaison, traveled to the CDA Reservation to join the Tribal Council for a signing ceremony. Comments were shared from the Tribal Chairman, Ernest Stensgar, Chuck Clarke and Scott Sufficool. We look forward to years of continued communication and assistance.

■**Kooteani Tribe Indoor Air Study:** An indoor air study was performed at the Kooteani River Inn, involving the full facility. There were inadequacies found in all areas of the Inn. The casino, restaurant, check-in desk, hotel rooms and kitchen were all evaluated. The hotel has a large remodeling/addition going on at this time. Investigative results shall be addressed. Alternative solutions will then be proposed to existing unhealthy environmental conditions.

■**Nez Perce Tribe New Hire:** Gregory Haller was hired by the Tribe in December 1998. He is from Ithaca, NY, has a Master of Professional Studies, Env. Management, from Cornell University. Gregory was hired to be a Water Resource Planner. He will be focusing on water related issues of the reservation, but within the ceded areas where the tribe has extensive treaty reserved fishing rights. He has two projects he is working on: 1) designing and implementing a water quality monitoring program for the Joseph Creek watershed in NE Oregon. 2) Participating in the relicensing process of the Hells Canyon Complex on the Snake River. He will represent two working groups on the second task: the Aquatics group and the Economics group. He has worked for the Bolton Point Water System in Ithaca, NY; Bio West Inc. in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the past five

years has been a NY State licensed fly fishing guide & instructor. Boy, do we envy him!! Welcome to Idaho and enjoy your position!

### Oregon

■On January 26<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held at BIA headquarters in Portland with representatives from the **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**, DEQ, and EPA, to discuss a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) about intergovernmental coordination involving waters that border, flow into or off the Warm Springs Reservation. Agreement was reached on the purposes and commitment to this MOA, discussion of a first draft of the MOA, and a schedule. The reason for a MOA is shared waters between the Tribe and the State of Oregon, when the Tribe's Treatment as a State (TAS) application under the Clean Water Act, Sections 303 (c) and 401, is approved. Another outcome of this meeting was a request by both the Tribe and DEQ for another 30 day comment period on EPA's finding of fact for this TAS application.

■On February 10, 1999, Randall Smith, Director, EPA Office of Water sent Sue Shaffer, Chairperson, of the **Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians**, a letter issuing a NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit, for their gaming center's wastewater treatment facility. This is the first EPA issued NPDES permit, to a Tribal facility, in the state of Oregon.

### Washington

The Washington Operations Office in Lacey welcomes Sheri Seibold. Sheri is currently attending South Puget Sound Community College and comes to EPA as a **STEP** employee. Welcome!

The **Student Education Employment Program** is an educational program that offers opportunities from high school through graduate study for on the job experience. For additional information on STEP check out the EPA web pages.